

Hunter's Creek Middle School



2021-2022
Parent & Student Handbook

Hunter's Creek Middle School

2021-2022

"21st Century Digital Learners"

Welcome to Hunter's Creek Middle School (HCMS). We have a caring and dedicated staff that will help you make this the best school year ever. In order for you to experience success, you will need to come to school ready to study and learn. The following information will assist you in understanding what your responsibilities are as a student at Hunter's Creek Middle School. Have a great year.

School Colors – Hunter Green and Royal Blue
School Mascot – Soaring Eagle
School Motto – "21st Century Digital Learners"

SCHOOL MISSION AND GOALS

The vision of Hunter's Creek Middle School is to ensure every student has a promising and successful future. Our mission is with the support of families and the community, we create enriching and diverse pathways that lead our students to success.

ATTENTION PARENTS

Please be advised that no supervision is provided on the HCMS campus prior to 30 minutes before the start of school and 30 minutes after the end of the school day. Supervision will be provided for students participating in school-sponsored activities for 30 minutes after the activity. All students must have their Hunter's Creek Middle School ID badge while on school campus.

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL SAFETY GUIDELINES

Parents must check their child's temperature before dropping off their child at school. A student registering a fever of 100.4 or higher may not be on campus. Students will be asked to fill out an information sheet for their teachers on the first day of school. On this information sheet your child needs to let us know how they will get to school and how they will go home. Upon arrival to campus, students must wear their mask, remain 6 feet away from others, and avoid congregating with others. All students who need to eat breakfast will go directly to the cafeteria. All other students will report to the gym and sit in their designated spots.

During dismissal, students will be dismissed in this order: walkers / bike riders, car riders, and buses. Walkers and bike riders must immediately leave the campus and avoid congregating. Car riders will walk to the gym. Parents on the car loop will always have the car rider tag visible so that the car rider staff can call on the walkie talkie for their child to be sent from the gym to the car loop.

ENROLLMENT / WITHDRAWALS

To enroll a new student, please complete the electronic enrollment packet found on the Orange County Public Schools website. You will need to provide the following to complete the enrollment: child's birth certificate or passport, parent's driver's license with current address (Current Homestead Exemption Card or Property Tax Statement or Signed Closing Contract or Copy of Lease*, verification of immunization* and physical exam, verification of academic history, verification of your residence in Orange County, copies of two utility bills with current address, copy of car insurance with current address. If you move or change your phone number, please let our school know! It is important that we have accurate information on file especially in the case of an emergency. You may contact our school's Registrar, Michelle Flynn, via email: 126137@ocps.net or you can reach her at extension 5102304. If you need to withdraw your student, update their health records or need to send in any vaccination records or other documents, please contact her for assistance.

*see the OCPS website or contact Ms. Flynn if you don't have this documentation.

ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance is important to student success. Children between the ages of six and eighteen are required to attend school regularly or risk being in violation of the Florida Compulsory School Attendance Law, Florida Statute 1003.21. Parents and guardians are legally responsible for making sure their children attend school regularly. When a student returns to school following an absence, he/she must bring a hand-written or typed note the next day signed and dated by a parent/guardian stating when and why the student was absent. This note must be handwritten with a signature and not an email. Be sure the student's full name, grade, and student ID number is included in the note. Students without notes from a parent or guardian will be given an unexcused absence. Failure to bring a note will be treated as truancy. Unexcused absences will be replaced by excused absences if an acceptable note is presented within 24 hours.

Once students arrive on campus, even though they have not entered the building, they may not leave the school grounds without permission.

Florida Law requires students to attend school every day. Excused absences fall under the following conditions:

1. Illness of student
2. Serious illness or death of a member of immediate family
3. Special and recognized religious holidays observed by student's family
4. Other conditions of an emergency or educational nature that cannot be scheduled outside of school hours, as judged by the administration

The law requires compulsory attendance to age 18.

A student who is absent from school on the day an activity/sport is scheduled will be ineligible to participate in that activity/sport.

PRE-ARRANGED ABSENCES

All pre-arranged absences must be turned in to Ms. Diane LaRouche to be approved by Principal Moukaddam.

MAKE UP WORK POLICY

Students have the number of days absent plus one to make up assignments missed. It is the student's responsibility to complete all missing assignments and make an appointment with the teacher to make up any missed tests due to an excused absence.

SEVERE WEATHER

When severe weather occurs, it may be necessary to dismiss students a few minutes early. If you are picking your child up on inclement weather days, please observe the directions of school personnel regarding traffic flow. Please have your child carry a poncho in his/her backpack at all times, especially if they have a class in a portable classroom.

TARDIES

Face to face students who arrive late to school must check in at the front desk. A note from a parent should be given explaining the tardy. Repeated tardiness is a violation of the OCPS Code of Conduct and will be handled accordingly.

Tardy Policy

- 1st Tardy – Warning
- 2nd Tardy – Parent Contact
- 3rd Tardy - Administrative Detention
- 4th Tardy - Saturday School
- 5th Tardy – Discipline Referral (Level 2 Repeated Misconduct)

The Tardy Count will be reset at the beginning of each Nine Weeks.

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

For Hunter's Creek Middle School to be a place of learning and growing, certain rules and regulations will be required for all students. They are prescribed by the Orange County Public School's Code of Student Conduct and Policies. Unacceptable student behavior may result in any of the following disciplinary responses: counseling, administrative/parent conference, suspension and recommendation for expulsion. If your conduct interferes with the rights of others, it is considered unacceptable. We encourage you to always display proud and positive SOARING EAGLES behavior. **THIS MUST BE SIGNED EVERY YEAR.**

ALCOHOL, DRUGS and TOBACCO PRODUCTS

We are a SMOKE FREE and DRUG FREE school. The possession or use of these products is not permitted on school grounds, school buses or any school sponsored activities. Violation of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion from school.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

The use of cell phones or wireless bluetooth headphones like Airpods are not permitted on campus. Cell phones must be off and concealed while on campus. They cannot be used during school hours and must remain OFF, unless a teacher approves their use for an instructional purpose. HCMS is not responsible for lost or stolen personal property. If a cell phone is confiscated, the parent must stop by the front office to retrieve it with a picture ID.

BICYCLES and SKATEBOARDS

No skateboards are allowed on campus. Bicycles will be locked and parked in the designated areas. Bicycle locks must be provided by the parent/guardian. Bicycles will not be ridden on campus or walkways at any time. Florida Law requires students to wear a helmet when riding their bicycles. Students are not allowed to operate nor bring any motorized vehicles on campus.

DRESS CODE

We take pride in the appearance of our students. All students are expected to dress and groom themselves neatly and in clothes that are appropriate for school. Our administration has the discretion to determine appropriate school clothing. Clothing must cover the body from one armpit across to the other armpit and down to approximately mid-thigh. Tops must have straps (3 finger rule). Undergarments must not be viewable. Rips, holes, or tears in clothing must be below the knee.

Students may **not** wear the following to school:

- Short shorts/skirts (shorter than 3 inches above the knee) or too tight clothing
- Gang paraphernalia including jewelry, clothing, or other items which display, suggest, provoke or may provoke violence or disruptions
- Hats, caps, visors, bandanas, or hoodies
- See-through clothing
- Pajamas
- Clothes that advertise alcohol or drugs, nor those with obscene or questionable language or racial slurs
- Croc style shoes without a strap around the heel

Clothes should be worn as they are designed, pants secured at the waist, belt buckled, no underwear as outerwear, no underwear exposed.

SCHOOL BUS REGULATIONS

Students are subject to the same disciplinary procedures when they are being transported to and from school as they are while in school. Students must ride their assigned bus to and from school, and must only board or depart at their assigned stop. Students must sit in their assigned seat through the duration of the bus ride. Seats will be assigned by the bus driver, and students must wear a mask at the bus stop and during the entire bus ride..

GUIDANCE

Guidance services are available to every student. These services include educational planning, interpretation of test scores, occupational information, study help, help with home, school, and/or social emotional concerns, or any questions students may have and would like to discuss with a counselor.

LOST and FOUND

Found items are taken to the Main Office where owners can claim them.

HEALTH OFFICE / MEDICATION

Our school health office is open during school hours. Students with minor illnesses or injuries will be sent there for assistance. Students will also visit our health room if they take medication here on campus.

The school health assistant will phone parent for immediate pick up if a child exhibits the following symptoms:
fever equal to or higher than 100.4 degrees
cough
shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
fatigue
muscle or body aches
headache
new loss of taste or smell
sore throat
congestion or runny nose
nausea or vomiting
diarrhea

Ill students will wait for parent pick-up in the ill student room. It is important that parents update their child's school records to reflect changes in address and phone numbers so they can be reached in case of an emergency.

Students who are required to take medication during school hours will do so in the health room. Parents must bring the medication in the original/unopened container and the medication form to the health room where it will be stored.

LOCKERS

Students may be issued a locker for PE class. In accepting a locker, the student understands that the administration may

check the locker. Further, the school assumes no liability for books or other belongings placed in the locker.

ID BADGES

All students will be given a photo ID badge within the first few weeks of school. Students will need this ID badge to buy lunch in the cafeteria and check out books from the media center. The students do not need to wear the badge, but must have it with them at all times. Replacement IDs cost \$3.00. A new picture will cost \$5.00.

CAFETERIA

Students must have their school ID badge in order to purchase lunch in any of the lunch lines. Students may purchase hot lunches, snacks, beverages, or may bring their own lunch from home. Parents may set up and monitor lunch accounts by registering with schoolpay.com.

SCHOOL VISITATION / PARENT CONFERENCES

Parents are encouraged to visit school frequently and actively participate in the education of their child. For the protection of the student, all visitors must report to the main office as soon as they enter the building to obtain a pass. The pass must be worn at all times while on campus. Please do not go directly to the classroom. If you need to give your child a message, medication, homework, lunch money, supplies etc., please go to the main office.

Outside food will not be delivered to students. Outside food must be eaten in the office and only by the student of the parent dropping off the food.

Students are not allowed to bring visitors to school.

Parents may make appointments for parent conferences with teachers, counselors and administrators by contacting Ms. LaRouche at the grade level by emailing her at 108236@ocps.net. She will reply within 48 hours with the scheduled date and time for the conference. Parent conferences will be with all your child's teachers via video conference. Your child also needs to attend the conference.

SAFETY DRILLS

Safety Drills are required by law and are an important precaution. Students will review safety procedures with their teachers and must follow teacher instructions for severe weather, active assailant, and fire drills.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Our student activities program is designed to make as many different interesting opportunities available to our students. Their members, with the help of the advisor, decide the plans, activities and functions of each club. A list of activities can be found on our website www.hems.ocps.net.

**ATHLETICS
AND
EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Our program provides students the opportunity to participate competitively in four sports throughout the year. The sports are: soccer, basketball, volleyball and track. There are also extra-curricular activities and clubs. To be eligible to participate/compete a student must maintain a 2.0 GPA. A list of activities/sports will be available on our website www.hcms.ocps.net. All sports are postponed until further notice and clubs will be virtual this year.

REPORT CARDS

Report Cards are issued at the end of each nine weeks grading period. Letter grades are given on report cards for all subjects as follows:

- A.....90-100
- B.....80-89
- C.....70-79
- D.....60-69
- F.....59 and below

Number grades are given to report conduct as follows:

- 1.....Satisfactory
- 2.....Needs Improvement
- 3.....Unsatisfactory

PROGRESS REPORTS

All students will receive a progress report halfway through each grading period.

PARENT ACCESS

Parents and students will receive account information for Skyward during the first week of school. We encourage parents and students to check current grades regularly via Skyward and notify teachers of any concerns immediately.

PTSA

Parent/Teacher/Student Association

The HCMS PTSA supports the school in many ways. They raise funds for the school and classroom enhancements, provide assistance with student recognition programs and help organize many other school activities. Join today!

SAC

School Advisory Council

SAC meets several times a year to discuss long range strategic planning of our school. Watch for meeting announcements in the school newsletter. Call HCMS for more information.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

If you own or work at a business that would like to help support our school, please sign up to be a Partner in Education. Our current partners have helped us in many ways such as in-kind donations, food donations etc. Partners receive recognition in our school newsletter and from our student groups.

ADDitions VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers really make the difference. We are fortunate to have dedicated people on a daily basis to help teachers and other staff members make HCMS the best. Our volunteers help in classrooms, chaperone, assist with student recognition and much, much more. To become a volunteer simply go to the Community Resources website: <http://volunteer.ocps.net> and click on ADDitions Volunteer Online Application. The volunteer application has to be filled out every year. Please register to volunteer today!

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Hunter's Creek Middle School
13400 Town Loop Boulevard
Orlando, FL 32837
(407) 858-4520
fax (407) 858-4621
www.hcms.ocps.net

Visit the school's website for up to date announcements, information, calendar, and resources.

To reach us, call the number above and use the following extensions. Each extension also has a voice mailbox for your convenience.

Main Office5102221
Registrar.....5102304
Clinic 5102323
Attendance5102241
Secretary5102223
Bookkeeper5102225
Cafeteria5102226
Library Media Center5102227
Tech Office5102234

Administrators

Mrs. Moukaddam, Principal....5102223
Mr. Connell, AP.....5102246
Mrs. Sims, API.....5102236
Mrs. Carter, 8th & 7th (A-L) grade Dean.....5102269
Mr. Golia, 6th & 7th (M-Z) grade Dean.....5102295

SAFE Coordinator - Ms. Angoy.....5102287
8th Gd Guidance - Mrs. Armstrong.....5102289
7th Gd Guidance - Mrs. Shah.....5102235
6th Gd Guidance - Mrs. Merritt.....5102258
Guidance Office - Ms. LaRouche.....5102252

Staffing Specialist - Mrs. Epifano.....5102224
ESOL Compliance - Mrs. Dominguez-Lozada.....5102282

2021-2022 School Calendar

| Weekday(s) | Date(s) | Event |
|-------------------|----------------|---|
| Monday-Monday | August 2-9 | Pre-Planning August 4 Professional Development Day |
| Tuesday | August 10 | First Day of School |
| Monday | September 6 | Labor Day Holiday |
| Thursday | October 7 | End of First Marking Period |
| Friday | October 8 | Teacher Workday/Student Holiday |
| Monday | October 11 | Begin Second Marking Period |
| Friday | October 29 | Teacher Professional Day/Student Holiday Teacher Non-Workday |
| Monday-Friday | November 22-26 | Thanksgiving Break |
| Friday | December 17 | End of Second Marking Period |
| Two Weeks | December 20-31 | Winter Break |
| Monday | January 3 | Teacher Workday/Student Holiday |
| Tuesday | January 4 | Begin Third Marking Period Begin Second Semester |
| Monday | January 17 | Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (Schools and District Offices Closed) |
| Monday | February 21 | Presidents' Day Holiday (Schools Closed/District Offices Open) |
| Thursday | March 10 | End of Third Marking Period |
| Friday | March 11 | Teacher Workday/Student Holiday |
| Monday-Friday | March 14-18 | Spring Break (Schools Closed/District Offices Open) |
| Monday | March 21 | Begin Fourth Marking Period |
| Wednesday | May 25 | End of Fourth Marking Period/Last Day of School |
| Thursday-Friday | May 26-27 | Post-Planning |
| Monday | May 30 | Memorial Day Holiday (Schools and District Offices Closed) |

OCPS EEO Non-Discrimination Statement

The School Board of Orange County, Florida, does not discriminate in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs and activities, on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, marital status, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other reason prohibited by law. The School Board also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities.